

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



**FISCAL MEMORANDUM**

**SB 1618 – HB 1987**

March 1, 2016

**SUMMARY OF ORIGINAL BILL:** Allows a court to authorize a testifying witness to utilize a courthouse facility dog during testimony. Authorizes a court to establish reasonable and appropriate conditions regarding the use of the courthouse facility dog.

Defines a courthouse facility dog as a dog that has graduated from an assistance dog program conducted by an organization that is accredited by Assistance Dogs International and trained to provide a witness with a calming presence during the testimony of the witness without disrupting the proceeding.

**FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:**

NOT SIGNIFICANT

**SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (012852):** Deletes the language “an organization that is accredited by Assistance Dogs International” and replaces with “an organization that is nationally recognized as an assistance dogs accrediting entity”.

**FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:**

**Unchanged from the original fiscal note.**

Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- According to the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), assistance dogs are already used in some courts pursuant to rule or policy of the presiding judge.
- It is assumed the use of a courthouse facility dog will not significantly impact state or local government revenue or expenditures.
- The AOC confirms that the legislation will not significantly impact the courts’ operations.

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**CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Krista M. Lee". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista M. Lee, Executive Director

/trm